



PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ribbon Cutting in Riverside For Linden and Iowa Bridges over I-215/SR-60

Riverside – The California Department of Transportation, Caltrans announced after an 18-month closure to rebuild both bridges that span the State Route 60/Interstate 215 freeway, the route will reopen to traffic on Wednesday, Oct. 12 at approximately 3 p.m. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be held at noon. Caltrans District 8 Director Mike Perovich will be joined by State Senator Bob Dutton, Riverside Mayor Ronald Loveridge, Riverside County Supervisor Marion Ashley, Riverside County Transportation Commissioners and many community partners who will become the first to cross the two bridges.

The Linden Street and Iowa Avenue overcrossings were closed in April 2004 to be rebuilt to accommodate the longer span of the widened freeway below. Part of the \$317 million 60/91/215 Freeway Improvement Project, the new bridges will reconnect residential communities and business districts that serve the University of California Riverside and John North High School.

“The process of building over \$300 million in freeway improvements is a special challenge,” said Michael Perovich, recently appointed District 8 Director for Caltrans in San Bernardino and Riverside counties. “We have embraced that challenge and together with our local partners, Caltrans has taken a giant step forward by delivering a major component of that improvement effort so drivers can use it now.”

There are many who helped meet the challenges by sharing ideas and solutions to minimize inconvenience to the public. The unrelenting support of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, local elected officials and the business community members have made this day possible and join in the celebration of this major milestone accomplishment.

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“We are pleased to have the contractor, Washington/Obayashi Joint Venture, Caltrans engineers, and city public works staff here who have spent hours of planning and special sacrifices to help make this event possible,” Perovich said. “Coordination and cooperation is critical in making this project run smoothly. Caltrans has worked hand-in-hand at every stage to ensure a successful project that provides benefits that are important to the Inland Empire.”

Work on this major construction effort is visible from various points along the 7-mile route of the freeway improvement project. Freeway-to-freeway fly-over connector ramps are currently under construction that will ultimately connect the northbound I-215 with the westbound State Route 91. At the same time, work is underway to replace the old bridge at Box Springs/Fair Isle. A new truck-climbing lane designed to take separate large trucks from the mainline flow of traffic is ongoing and will channel these vehicles along the southbound I-215. They will ultimately connect with the eastbound SR-60 in Moreno Valley.

Caltrans, the Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) are working in partnership to construct improvements to the 60/91/215 Interchange and segments of each of the freeways that serve it. This project is one of the largest and most complex projects in the Inland Empire. The project stretches a distance of more than seven miles from Riverside on the west to Moreno Valley at its easterly terminus.

The three freeways that make up this overall improvement project and interchange are critical links between major Inland Empire communities in both Riverside and San Bernardino counties and serve the major flow of commuter and commercial traffic throughout the region. This interchange carried nearly 314,000 daily vehicles in 2003 and served more than 332,000 vehicles in 2004.

Please visit the Web page: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/6091215/> for construction updates on this project. Caltrans advises motorists to drive with extra caution, stay, alert and always **Slow for the Cone Zone**.

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